

Indictable offences are grouped into six classes as shown in Table 2. In 1955 persons convicted of assaults of various kinds and obstructing police represented 79.4 p.c. of Class I, which covers crimes against the person. In that year 16 persons were convicted of murder, 7 of attempted murder and 43 of manslaughter as compared with 15, 4 and 81 respectively in 1954.

Classes II to V cover offences against property. Thieves predominate among the offenders in these classes, and burglars and robbers whose serious crimes involve acts of violence are the next most numerous. In Class VI which includes miscellaneous offences the most numerous convictions are for offences connected with the improper operation of motor vehicles. In 1955 there were 349 offenders under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, of whom 242 were convicted of possessing heroin, 249 were males and 308 were born in Canada. British Columbia courts convicted 59.3 p.c. of the drug offenders and Ontario courts 23.2 p.c.

## 2.—Adults Charged and Convicted of Indictable Offences by Class of Offence 1954 and 1955

Class and Offence	1954			1955			Increase or Decrease in Persons Convicted
	Adults Charged	Adults Convicted		Adults Charged	Adults Convicted		
		M.	F.		M.	F.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	p.c.
<b>Class I.—Offences against the Person</b>	<b>7,066</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>6,323</b>	<b>4,676</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>-11.8</b>
Abduction.....	26	17	1	24	8	4	-33.3
Assault, common, aggravated and on police.....	4,802	3,539	226	4,486	3,330	153	-7.5
Offences against females <sup>1</sup> .....	1,083	834	10	855	641	19	-21.8
Manslaughter and murder.....	169	90	6	112	55	4	-38.5
Attempted murder; shooting and wounding.....	290	202	15	175	119	11	-40.1
Non-support, desertion.....	162	134	4	92	70	4	-46.4
Other offences against the person.....	534	458	15	579	453	26	+1.3
<b>Class II.—Offences against Property with Violence</b>	<b>5,181</b>	<b>4,678</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Burglary and robbery.....	5,181	4,678	65	5,020	4,542	64	-2.9
<b>Class III.—Offences against Property without Violence</b>	<b>12,836</b>	<b>10,574</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>12,101</b>	<b>9,914</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>-5.9</b>
Fraud, embezzlement and false pretences.....	2,017	1,645	136	1,935	1,542	139	-5.6
Receiving stolen goods.....	1,109	899	34	1,071	823	65	-5.9
Theft.....	9,710	8,030	716	9,095	7,549	680	-5.9
<b>Class IV.—Malicious Offences against Property</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>+51.1</b>
Arson.....	74	55	5	107	63	14	+28.3
Malicious damage to property.....	307	257	10	496	401	16	+56.2
<b>Class V.—Forgery and Other Offences against the Currency</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>+2.1</b>
Offences against currency.....	5	4	—	14	10	—	+150.0
Forgery and uttering forged documents.....	737	632	75	750	651	65	+1.3
<b>Class VI.—Offences not included in the Foregoing Classes</b>	<b>9,072</b>	<b>7,561</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>6,311</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>-16.1</b>
Dangerous or reckless driving.....	847	656	6	307	245	3	-62.5
Driving car while ability impaired.....	3,690	3,505	41	3,161	2,985	40	-14.7
Driving car while drunk.....	1,100	897	6	751	641	10	-27.9
Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, offences against.....	351	239	67	396	249	100	+14.1
Gambling and lotteries.....	442	341	40	684	566	36	+58.0
Keeping bawdy houses and inmates.....	287	51	196	265	65	137	-18.2
Various.....	2,355	1,872	139	1,992	1,560	125	-16.2
<b>Grand Totals</b> .....	<b>35,278</b>	<b>29,035</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>32,367</b>	<b>26,568</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>-8.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes abortion, assault against females or wife, indecent assault, carnal knowledge, incest, procuration, rape, attempted rape and seduction.